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Letter, Jane Grey Swisshelm to Elizabeth Mitchell [April 8, 1884]

Jane Grey Swisshelm

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Jane Grey Swisshelm to Mrs. Henry Z. Mitchell, April 8, 1884.

[Mitchell MSS. -- A.L.S.]

Chicago April 8, 84

My Dear Sister

This world is so full of fools & one finds them in such unexpected places that you need wonder it occurred to me that Mrs Prutz & you might knit those curtains without a chain thread for support in which case they might hang together until you had finished them, so I got Zo to buy you some chain & put it into the bundle which we hope to express tomorrow. To be real nice the chain should be knitting silk. What we send seems too heavy & that yellow yarn might show less & be strong enough. Whatever you do, do not knit them without running a chain thread all the way with the rags.

We have some boxes packed but Zo cannot set a day when we are to leave. She leaves this house very unwillingly & if Earnest were not so anxious to get out of it I should go & leave her in her adored dunghill. He may not build next summer indeed I think he will not & in that case she will come back in the fall & they will board the winter & spend the next summer in Swissvale. You are to spend next winter there & make patchwork or quilt while I paint. I got an enlarged solar type of Zo's wedding picture & propose painting it for you, have left that old group of the children & me, your picture of you & Gib & Zo's baby picture for Solar copies. They are almost obliterated but I think will give pictures that can be painted so as to restore the likenesses I am so anxious to get home to get the roses transplanted but fear we will not get there in time. Oh, do not ask Lydia or Mrs Crook to do

any errands. Lydia gets up at six to get to the office in time & does not leave it until six. I know no one who has less time to shop Mrs Crook is imposed upon by a hoste of rural relatives. No one here can do an errand without giving a day to it, for if you want a spool of cotton it is best to take a car & go to State St. for after you have run around the west side stores until your paitence [sic] is all gone you will, most likely, have to go at last. Mrs Crook is very much affraid [sic] of imposing on others, & of being imposed upon by strangers. We had snow last night & the weather has generally been cool or cold which makes the place better. It is hard for Zo to have her home broken up & her things scattered as they will be, the piano, big mirror some pictures & most of the bedding we take along. Mrs Crook takes the sofa & big chair & clock Earnest will have his book case in his room at Whitlocks & the dishes will go to their basement Most of the furniture to a storage room &c &c it is hard!

[Jane Grey Swisshelm]

[Addressed:] Mrs. Elizabeth A Mitchell

n Care Gen. H. Z. Mitchell

St. Cloud

Minn.